



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET

ROY WILKINS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10018

BRYANT 9-1400

HENRY LEE MOON

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

July 22, 1967

NAACP AIDS VICTIMS
OF RIOT IN NEWARK

NEWARK, N.J. — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has retained legal counsel to handle police brutality charges stemming from the Newark riots.

Robert L. Carter, NAACP chief legal counsel, also announced that his office would supply legal aid to at least three Newark Negro business leaders who have accused police and National Guardsmen of "wantonly" spraying bullets into their businesses because they had sought to protect their establishments by scrawling "soul brother" on their display windows.

In an earlier development, NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins stated in a telegram to New Jersey Gov. Richard Hughes that remarks made by the Governor during the destructive riot had been "misinterpreted" and were being used "by elements in the white community to arm themselves...for an open shooting season on Negroes."

While deploring the five days of violence which cost 26 lives and millions of dollars in property damage, Mr. Wilkins said that "indiscriminate spraying of apartments with bullets to stop snipers had actually spread alarm and anger in the population."

The NAACP convention in Boston also condemned the riotous destruction of life and property. However, in an emergency resolution passed at a convention plenary session, delegates placed much of the blame for the Northern New Jersey riots on "the city administration for its failure to take corrective action to meet many of the grave social ills of the Negro community."

"Slum housing conditions in Newark are among the worst of any urban community in the United States. The recent effort of the Mayor to appoint an unqualified white man over an exceptionally qualified Negro to a post on the Board of Education in the face of a unified demand from the Negro community is certainly a contributing cause of the riot," the resolution added. "There must be a rooting out of evils in race relations and a thorough redress of legitimate grievances."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Irene H. Smith, president of the New Jersey state conference of the NAACP, and Miss Sally G. Carroll, Newark NAACP Branch president, charged at a news conference here that the riots were caused by unemployment, underemployment, poor housing, educational and recreational facilities and continued refusal of public officials to listen to complaints from the Negro community.

During the crowded news conference, NAACP tri-state field director Phillip Savage told reporters the NAACP is helping two college professors to prepare an independent study of "Newark, What Happened Here and Why."

The NAACP officials also announced plans to launch a fund-raising drive to provide "food and clothing for destitute families" caught in the riot.

Participants in the conference included NAACP branch presidents George Rice,

Montclair; Joe Benson, Paterson; Spurgeon Cameron, Plainfield; Rev. James G. Garlin, Elizabeth; and Dr. Luther Roberts, a member of the executive board of the Plainfield branch.

"We meet here in an attempt to halt violence in Newark and other Northern Jersey cities," Mrs. Smith said. "We condemn the violence, but we must take corrective action to meet the many grave social ills of the Negro community."

The NAACP delegation took newsmen on a tour of the riot-torn Central Ward, and talked with residents of the area.

A second meeting of the North Jersey NAACP branch leaders has been scheduled for July 29 at the Military Park Hotel to "develop strategy to give more attention to problems now being ignored."

(2)

(2)